From: The IACP
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Greetings Jeremy Grimes

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

POLICING & POLICY

Report Finds Mental Illness, Threatening Messages Often Come Before Mass-Casualty Attacks

USA Today (7/9, Johnson) reports from Alexandria, Virginia, "Two-thirds of suspects in mass casualty attacks in the United States suffered from some form of mental illness, and nearly all of them engaged in threatening or suspicious communications beforehand, the Secret Service concluded in an analysis Tuesday." The analysis "covered 27 attacks in 2018 that left 91 people dead and 107 injured at office buildings, schools, a synagogue another other prominent public spaces, scattered from a sidewalk in Portland, Oregon to a high school Parkland, Florida." Federal investigators "found that 67% of suspects displayed symptoms of mental illness or emotional disturbance, up slightly from last year's 64%. In at least 93% of last year's incidents, authorities found that the suspects had a history of threats or other troubling communications, up from 86% in 2017," and "in more than three-quarters of all cases – 78% – suspicious communications elicited concerns for the safety the attackers or others."

CBS News (7/9, Legare) reports, "Between January and December 2018, 91 people were killed and 107 more were injured as a result of the incidents outlined in the report," and "sccording to its findings, 24 of the 27 attacks were carried out using firearms and 93% of the attackers were male." CBS News adds, "Motivations behind the attack were more varied," as "fifty-two percent of the attackers appeared to be motivated by personal or professional grievances, while only 7% were motivated by a particular ideology."

CNN International (7/9, Yan, Shortell) reports, "The findings emphasize the need for anyone who hears a threat to speak up, said acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan. 'While not every act of violence can be prevented, the MAPS report indicates we can do much more to prevent targeted violence together when appropriate systems are in place,' he said."

Portland, Oregon Police Chief Creates Inspector General Office, Community Services Division

The Oregonian (7/9, Bernstein) reports that Portland, Oregon Police Chief Danielle Outlaw on Tuesday "announced the creation of an Office of Inspector General led by a civilian employee to oversee use of force audits and policy development, and a new Community Services Division. 'These divisions will be direct reports to me, and the focus will be on improving continuity of their work product and services as well as enhancing the Bureau's accountability functions to better meet the community's expectations,' the chief said in a prepared statement." Outlaw "also has combined the bureau's sex trafficking unit, which had operated out of East Precinct conducting undercover stings in the city, with the agency's human trafficking unit, basing both together in the central detective division in the bureau's headquarters in downtown Portland. 'These strategic moves bring together units that may have overlapping services so they can work more collaboratively,' Outlaw said in the release."

California Pilot Diversion Program Lets Victims Confront Offenders

The AP (7/8, Thompson) reports, "California officials are experimenting with a new diversion program for criminals that includes allowing victims to directly confront their offenders." The AP adds, "The budget that took effect July 1 includes $5

million to fund the program for five years in a county with a history of high crime, although it has been tried elsewhere and is more frequently used with juvenile offenders." According to the AP, "The California program is for offenders of any age," and "it will pair victims and offenders before they are convicted, and offenders who complete the program can avoid having a criminal record." Proponents said Monday "that what are known as restorative justice programs can help survivors heal, while helping offenders avoid committing new crimes in part because they don't face the stigma of a criminal conviction."

Drones Could Soon Be Part Of LAPD's Arsenal Of Tools

The Los Angeles Times (7/9, Puente) reports that the Los Angeles Police Department has "moved one step closer to permanently adding drones to its arsenal of tools." The five-member civilian Police Commission voted to approve "a report Tuesday on the LAPD's pilot program to use the airborne devices and will consider a new policy in 60 to 75 days to make the program permanent." The vote "means the existing pilot program," which began in October 2017, "will continue until the commission can consider a new police policy." While critics "fear police will add weapons or facial-recognition tools to the drones to increase surveillance of minority communities," Police Chief Michel Moore "told commissioners the department will not violate the public's constitutional rights when deploying the devices."

The Los Angeles Daily News (7/9, Cain) reports Deputy Lawrence Frank, who commands LAPD's counter-terrorism and special operations division, "said the drones have a limited battery life and range, and wouldn't be useful for surveillance." According to the Daily News, FAA rules also "restrict how far police can fly their drones."

Wisconsin Students Get Crime-Solving Experience Through FBI Program

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (7/9, Talisseer) reports, "It was a crime scene on the Marquette University campus, and 16-year-old Andrew Lee was in charge of making sure evidence collection followed a proper chain of command." According to the Journal Sentinel, "Under the direction of Special Agent Eric Fraser, an Evidence Response Team leader and onsite coordinator, five teams of six students searched, collected and labeled the scene of an abduction at Marquette University's Humphrey Hall." The Journal Sentinel adds, "In all, 30 young people from all over the state embarked this week their crime-solving journey as part of the FBI's Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy – a program introducing young people to the world of law enforcement, complete with an 'integrated case scenario' that involves hands-on training to solve a crime."

House To Vote Friday On 9/11 Victims Fund

The Hill (7/9, Marcos) reports, "The House is expected to vote Friday on legislation to authorize funding for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, according to Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.)." The vote "will come after former 'Daily Show' host Jon Stewart gave emotional testimony before Congress last month calling on lawmakers to take swift action to extend the funding for first responders. 'I'm pleased to announce the House will vote this Friday on the Zadroga Pfeifer Alvarez 9/11 #Renew911VCF. The heroes who ran into harm's way that day deserve swift action. I thank Jon Stewart @RepMaloney @RepJerryNadler & others for their advocacy on this issue,' Hoyer announced in a Monday tweet." The legislation "will be named after 9/11 first responders Luis Alvarez and Ray Pfeifer, as well as New York Police Department detective James Zadroga."

California Measure Governing Police Use Of Force Heads To Governor's Desk

The Sacramento (CA) Bee (7/8, Wiley) reports, "A measure that would make California's law governing police use of force one of the strictest in the country cleared the Legislature late Monday and is on its way to Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk." Assembly Bill 392 "passed the Senate floor on Monday afternoon in the final leg of a yearlong process to elevate California's deadly force law from when officers think it's 'reasonable' to only when 'necessary.'" Newsom "is expected to sign the measure." The bill "allows officers to employ lethal force 'based on the totality of the circumstances,' but it defines 'necessary' as when officers or the public face an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm." The bill "would require evaluating an officer's conduct before and after deadly force is used and whether deescalation techniques were attempted as an alternative, but would allow managers to consider 'all facts known to the peace officer at the time.'"

Virginia GOP Lawmakers "Abruptly" End Special Session On Gun Control

The AP (7/9, Suderman, Rankin) reports, "Less than two hours after beginning a special session called in response to a mass shooting, Virginia lawmakers abruptly adjourned Tuesday without taking any action and postponed any movement on gun control until after the November election." The AP adds "the session on gun violence called by Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam got off to a chaotic start, with the Republican Senate majority leader averting a mutiny in the GOP caucus by publicly disavowing a gun control bill he had proposed only the day before." The Washington Post (7/9, Schneider, Vozzella, Olivo) recounts that "barely more than 90 minutes after it convened a special session...the GOP-controlled General Assembly abruptly adjourned without taking action, stunning hundreds of gun control activists and gun rights protesters who had packed the Capitol."

Study Finds Gun Offenders More Likely To Commit Crime Again

The San Diego Union-Tribune (7/9, Davis) reports, "Dennis Wallace Haggerty is not supposed to have guns," as "his felony convictions – assault with a firearm and shooting at an unoccupied dwelling – terminated that constitutional right," and "yet when parole agents with an arrest warrant searched his girlfriend's Spring Valley home in May, they found a loaded pistol in a closet and an AR-15-style gun in her SUV, which he'd allegedly borrowed the night before." Haggerty's "rearrest...follows a pattern linking gun offenders to a high rate of recidivism." The Union-Tribune adds, "A study by the U.S. Sentencing Commission released last month reported more than two-thirds – 68% – of federal gun offenders were rearrested within eight years of being released from prison, compared to less than half – 46% – of non-firearm offenders." The research "also found that the rearrests happened at a quicker rate than non-gun offenders, and for more serious crimes."

IACP 2019 Online Justification Toolkit

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CRIME & DRUGS

Police Say "Felony Lane Gang" Responsible For Recent Pennsylvania Vehicle Break-Ins

The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (7/9, Benscoler) reports, "A campground on the Gettysburg National Military Park and the Artillery Ridge National Riding Stables were the latest targets of a group known as the 'Felony Lane Gang,' according to Cumberland Township Police Department in Adams County." According to the Patriot-News, "During the last week of June, both township police and the National Park Service's Law Enforcement Division responded to reports of vehicle break-ins." The Patriot-News adds, "All cases involved broken windows, and stolen purses and wallets, which had credit cards, check books and identifications in them." The FBI describes the Felony Lane Gang "as 'a group of organized burglary and identity theft rings operating in multiple jurisdictions throughout the U.S.'"

Fourteen Arrested In Pennsylvania Drug Ring Crackdown

The Inquirer (PA) (7/9, Whelan) reports, "More than a dozen people were arrested in connection with a drug-dealing ring in an early-morning raid in the Kensington section of Philadelphia on Tuesday, state Attorney General Josh Shapiro announced." According to the Inquirer, "Law enforcement officers from Shapiro's office, the FBI, Philadelphia police, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and a number of other local, state, and federal agencies arrested 14 people and seized six kilograms of heroin and the synthetic opioid fentanyl, plus two kilograms of cocaine, five handguns, a rifle, and $200,000 in cash, Shapiro said." Shapiro "said the arrests and seizures were the result of a three-month wiretap investigation of a drug ring that operated on Clementine Street in Kensington."

Natick, Massachusetts Police Use Device Tracker To Catch Burglary Suspect

The Boston Globe (7/9, Lukpat) reports that Natick, Massachusetts police "used device-tracking technology to catch a burglary suspect Sunday, officials said." Police "discovered Sunday that Steven Levasseur, 28, of Moultonborough, N.H., allegedly broke into two homes in Natick and stole $1,200 worth of iPads and $1,700 worth of jewelry, Natick police Lieutenant Cara Rossi said." A family "called police Sunday at 12:30 p.m. when they returned home from vacation and noticed their iPads were missing, Rossi said. 'An officer asked one of the young adult children to use the find my device app and keep her posted. The young lady did that and was able to get a signal for the iPad on a nearby street,' Rossi said." Officers "went to Fairview Avenue to determine where the devices were, Rossi said, when a resident on the street came outside and said a family acquaintance had trespassed in their home." Police "allegedly discovered Levasseur in the home with stolen items in the garage, Rossi said."

TECHNOLOGY

UK Watchdog Raises Concerns Over Police Facial Recognition Cameras

The Telegraph (UK) (7/9, Hymas) reports, "Police use of facial recognition technology could be blocked as the official information watchdog warned of her 'deep concerns' over its potential threat to people's privacy." According to the Telegraph, "Elizabeth Denham, the Information Commissioner, said that although she appreciated the purpose was to 'catch criminals', the trials of the technology involved the 'widespread processing of biometric data of thousands of people as they go about their daily lives.' 'There remain significant privacy and data protection issues that must be addressed, and I remain deeply concerned about the roll-out of this technology,' she said in a blog published on Tuesday."

GLOBAL SECURITY

Gatwick Airport Police "Not Prepared For Two Drones"

BBC News Online (UK) (7/9) reports, "Police at Gatwick Airport were not prepared for an attack by more than one drone, a senior officer has said." According to BBC News, "Flights were suspended for 30 hours after the drone sightings in December, causing chaos for 140,000 passengers." Sussex Police Supt Justin Burtenshaw "said its 'drone plan' had been based 'around a single drone incursion and not a multiple one'," and "he said the airport industry was left 'playing catch up', but Gatwick's defences were 'now fit for purpose'. 'We have now got the mitigation technology in place, I wish we had that in December,' he added."

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